

SUMMARY OF PHONE INTERVIEW WITH THE EXAMINER

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the phone interview on September 9, 2008. The interview consisted of a presentation of amended claims 224, 232, and 239 and an explanation of how US Patent 5,870,484 to Greenberger ("Greenberger") and US Patent 4,256,922 to Görike ("Görike") are distinguishable from the subject matter of claims 224 - 242 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). The Examiner agreed that neither Greenberger nor Görike disclose an array of at least 6 output transducers in a single enclosure in which each of the transducers receives a replica of the same signal. Applicant's representative pointed out that the method of directing sound in a particular direction in Greenberger relies on having exactly two transducers per channel, that the delaying scheme used to control the direction of sound in Greenberger through a cardioid radiation pattern is the exact opposite of the delays used in the present invention, and that, in Görike, one must physically turn a transducer to face the direction that the sound is to be projected in. Because of these differences, the Examiner agreed that the systems of Greenberger and Görike could not be combined to arrive at the subject matter claimed in this application and that he would remove the rejection to the claims if they are amended as we presented them for the interview.

This Office Action Response amends the claims as they were presented in the phone interview and includes the substantive arguments considered and accepted by the Examiner during the interview.